

REFLECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 2026

&
Connections

STORIES OF MISSION
& MINISTRY

Doris Klein, CSA



CSA

Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Promoting Justice, Building Community

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your prayerful support as 57 sisters gathered in June for the CSA General Chapter 2026. The theme of Chapter was **Love Calls**. . . .

God, who is Love, continues to call us as consecrated women disciples, formed through life and brought together to further the Mission of Jesus Christ that all may know the Love of God. During Chapter we gathered for sacred conversations, for prayer, and for discernment pertaining to the common good of CSA and Christ's Mission now and in the years ahead. Our CSA Chapter Statement is shared with you in this issue, as is a brief introduction of the newly elected members of the General Council who will serve in leadership until June 2030.

As we gathered at Chapter 2026, we were conscious of how blessed we have been, and still are today, by you—graced companions on this journey of life.



Pictured L to R: Sister Sharon Pollnow, General Superior; Sister Anita Henning, General Vicar; Sister Madeline Gianforte, General Councilor; Sister Pat Hayes, General Councilor

God, who is Love, calls each of us to be a Loving Presence in this world, where our hearts beat with that of the Creator for the people, for the earth, and for all that is. Thank you for partnering with us, in giving witness to God's Love.

With grateful hearts,

Sisters Sharon, Anita, Madeline, and Pat
CSA General Council

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Editorial Board Members:

*Sister Jeremy Quinn, Sister Jean Perry,
Dusty Krikau, and Mary Christopherson*

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Division and Unity in the US at 250



Love Calls

As the Congregation of Sisters of Saint Agnes, we give witness to God's love. Impelled by this love, we live with respect for creation of which we are a part, and we strive to be a hope-filled presence to those whose lives we touch, especially those whose faith life or human dignity is threatened.

Chapter 2026



A New Leadership Team for the Sisters of St. Agnes

*D*uring their General Chapter 2026, delegates for the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes discerned their direction for the next four years and the new team of sisters who will lead their efforts. Sister Sharon Pollnow will serve as General Superior with Sister Anita Henning as General Vicar and Sisters Madeline Gianforte and Patricia Hayes as General Councilors. This General Council will serve the congregation from 2026-2030.

The congregation introduced the new leadership team during a special installation Mass on Saturday, August 29, 2026, in Dorcas Chapel. Mass was open to the public, and a recording is available on the CSA website. Bishop Jeffrey Haines was the presider and homilist.

About the New Leadership Team



Sister Sharon Pollnow is originally from Milwaukee, WI. She holds a B.S. in education from Marian College in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin; an M.Ed. from the University of Minnesota;

and an MSW from the University of Michigan. She is a licensed clinical social worker with certifications as a spiritual director and a grief and trauma specialist. Sharon's ministries took her to Wisconsin, Illinois, and Ohio to serve as a teacher, principal, parish staff member, adjunct university instructor, diocesan board member, spiritual director, and clinical social worker/counselor. In 2021, Sister Sharon retired from her counseling position at Sophia Center in Sylvania, Ohio, which she helped to establish in 1993, and subsequently moved back to Wisconsin. She has served as General Superior for the congregation since 2022 and also previously served CSA on the General Council from 2009-2013 and as a District Coordinator for Illinois and Indiana in the 1970s.



Sister Anita Henning began life in Hardinsburg, Kentucky, before moving to Beloit, Wisconsin. She is a graduate of Marian College and Manhattan College,

where she earned a B.A. in Education and a Master's in Education Administration respectively. She was a teacher and principal for many years in locations throughout the country, including service in many places in Wisconsin, East Harlem, New York, NY, and Canton, Mississippi. She was a Faith Formation Director in Portage, Wisconsin. She has served on the CSA Leadership Team twice before, once in 1997-2001 and again in 2013-2017. Since 2018, she has been the pastoral minister at St. Mary Help of Christians in Briggsville, Wisconsin.



Sister Madeline Gianforte is from Bensenville, Illinois. Her education includes a B.S. in education from Illinois Benedictine College in Lisle, Illinois, and a Master's degree

in Holistic Health from John F. Kennedy University in Pleasant Hill, California. Her first ministries were based in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and Canton, Mississippi. In 2002, she helped found CORE El Centro on the south side of Milwaukee to serve those of limited income. CORE El Centro is a natural healing center which provides services including massage therapy, energy work, acupuncture, holistic exercise, nutrition, and gardening classes. Sister Madeline transitioned the organization to a new Executive Director in 2022 when she first joined the General Council.



A native of Nanty Glo, Pennsylvania, Sister Patricia Hayes received a B.S. from Marian College in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and a Master of Arts Degree in Pastoral Studies

from Aquinas School of Theology in St. Louis, Missouri. Her ministry work began in healthcare at St. Agnes Hospital in Fond du Lac followed quickly by healthcare work in Nicaragua. Healthcare work was regularly intermingled with pastoral care of those discerning their call to religious life and was paused entirely from 1997-2005 when she served as a General Councilor for the congregation. Now, she returns to leadership directly from her most recent ministry working with The Leo House in New York, where she has served since 2018.

Please keep CSA in your prayers during the transition to this new leadership team and as they work toward the objectives outlined during the General Chapter.

Congratulations, Jubilarians!

Each year, CSA celebrates the anniversary of religious profession of sisters and of the first commitment of associates.

On Sunday, June 28, 2026, CSA sisters, associates, families, and friends honored the 15 sister Jubilarians and 5 associate Jubilarians during a joyous Eucharistic Liturgy held at Holy Family Church in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Close family and friends joined together for the event with Rev. Carl Diederichs presiding. Sister Jean Hinderer, CSA, gave the reflection.

The Jubilee Mass, which was livestreamed, can be viewed at www.csasisters.org/jubilee

Collectively the 20 jubilarians represent 1,035 years of service. Individual profiles for each sister and associate celebrating Jubilee can also be found on the website along with the option to donate to the congregation in their honor.

SISTERS



75 YEARS (1951) ▲
Sister Loraine Pfannenstiel



75 YEARS (1951) ▲
Sister Rosa Inés Silva



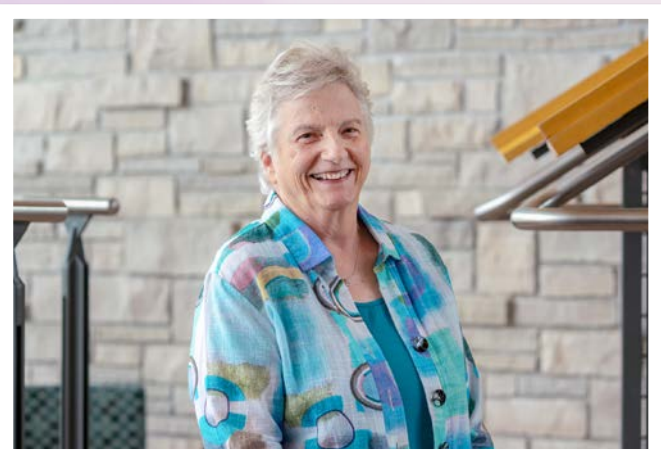
70 YEARS (1956) ▲
Sisters Mary Martin Voglewede, René Backe, Julaine Meyer



60 YEARS (1966) ▲
Top Row (L to R): Sisters Jeremy Quinn, Jean Hinderer, Joanita Stelter, Brigid Layden
Front Row (L to R): Sisters Donna Innes, Ann Koerner, Kathryn Schilling, Sharon Pollnow



50 YEARS (1976) ▲
Sister Julie Ann Krah



40 YEARS (1986) ▲
Sister Madeline Gianforte

ASSOCIATES

25 YEARS (2001) ►
Ron Palm, Sheila Boos
(Not Pictured: Carol Heiman)

15 YEARS (2010) ►
Maureen Sanner, Lois Pflum



Pictured (L to R): Ron Palm, Sheila Boos, Maureen Sanner, Lois Pflum

For Your Personal Reflection

**Jubilee celebrations invite all of us to reflect and renew our personal commitments.
What personal commitments will you celebrate and renew this year?**

Connect

**Consider the people who celebrated your milestones with you throughout your life.
How have you stayed connected with them?**



St. Francis Home Reimagining

SSM Health is excited to announce plans to build a new state-of-the-art senior living community off Highway 23 on Fond du Lac's east side to better meet the growing needs of seniors in the surrounding area. The complex will feature independent living apartments, assisted living, memory care, and high-need assisted living.

"We are delighted to be developing a modern campus with beautiful surroundings to offer seniors a welcoming, supportive home environment that promotes independence, enhanced quality of life and provides personalized care," said Denise Gloede, SSM Health President of Continuum of Care. "Its thoughtful design will improve workflows so that caregivers can even more efficiently focus on providing for residents' needs."

The project has generous support from the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes (CSA) who gifted the land to SSM Health. The new community will be owned by SSM Health and is being developed in partnership with and will be managed by ElderSpan Management, a family-operated company based in Madison, Wisconsin.

ElderSpan manages a number of senior living communities in Wisconsin, including a longstanding joint venture with SSM Health for the communities of Meadow Ridge and Meadow View Senior Living in Baraboo. ElderSpan also manages the Catholic Charities' All Saints Neighborhood in Madison and several other assisted living communities across southern Wisconsin.



ElderSpan has strong expertise in developing and managing senior living residences that offer a continuum of care and together we are designing a beautiful campus with a welcoming, supportive home environment that will promote independence, enhance quality of life and provide the personalized care residents may need.

SSM Health plans to break ground for the new \$42 million, 180,000-square-foot complex in early 2027. The CSA Sisters, residents of SSM Health St. Francis Home, the current senior living facility on the SSM Health St. Agnes Hospital - Fond du Lac campus, and members of the caregiving team will be offered the opportunity to transition to the new community.

“With the creation of this new community, SSM Health has the opportunity to evaluate how the vacated space on the hospital campus can be used to enhance health care services in meeting the evolving needs of the community,” said Shane Smith, SSM Health St. Agnes Hospital President.

The new campus joins SSM Health’s Hospice Home of Hope and nearby Villa Rosa community in Mt. Calvary in serving the care needs for seniors in the area. The new community is expected to open to residents in 2028.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING SERIES

PRESENTED BY

MARIAN
UNIVERSITY



CSA

Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
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The Mission Integration Committee of Marian University is pleased to present a speakers series focusing on Catholic Social Teaching. Each session will focus on a single theme of Catholic Social Teaching and explore it through the lens of a CSA Corporate Stance and a Marian major. The series will take place from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in Marian University's Stayer Auditorium.

Each session is free and open to the public and will be livestreamed to the CSA Channel on YouTube.

September 29 Theme: Call to Family, Community, and Participation

CSA Corporate Stance on Human Trafficking
Division/Major: Social Work

October 27 Theme: Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

CSA Statement on Women
Division/Major: Counseling

November 17 Theme: Rights and Responsibilities

CSA Statement of Belief on Peace and Nonviolence
Division/Major: Nursing

January 26 Theme: We are One Human Family

CSA Corporate Stance on Nuclear-Free Zone
Division/Major: Nuclear Science

February 23 Theme: The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

CSA Corporate Stance on Anti-Racism
Division/Major: Business/Marketing & Student Life and Diversity

March 23 Theme: Care for God's Creation

CSA Corporate Stance on Care for Earth
Division/Major: Science

April 13 Theme: Life and Dignity of the Human Person

CSA Corporate Stance on Death Penalty
Division/Major: Criminal Justice



CATHOLIC SOCIAL
TEACHING SERIES

Celebrate the *Season of Creation*



www.csasisters.org

*S*ea-son of Creation unites the global Christian family from September 1 until October 4 in celebrating the wonders of Creation. Join us at any of the events below as we come together with faith, hope, and commitment to care of the world.

The Letter: Film Screening & Discussion

September 13, 2026

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Holy Family Hall, Holy Family Church

Earth Fair

September 19, 2026

10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Founders Hall, CSA Motherhouse

Watch Party: Faith In Place Annual Environment & Spirituality Summit Keynote

September 29, 2026

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. (Doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

Founders Hall, CSA Motherhouse

In Memoriam... Walking with God



Sister Rosa Inés Silva Sándigo

Sister Rosa Inés Silva Sándigo, CSA, baptized Julia Clementina, died peacefully on July 26, 2026. Clementina was born December 8, 1920, in San Marcos, Carazo, Nicaragua. An imaginative child, a youth eager to learn, Clementina dreamed of becoming a pharmacist. When CSA missionaries came to Nicaragua, she became a candidate in their formation program in Waspam, Nicaragua, and, after six months, living and working with the pioneer missionaries, she entered St. Agnes Convent, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, in February 1949. She made first profession of vows in the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes as Sister Rosa Inés on August 15, 1951.

Immediately after her religious profession, Sister Rosa Inés began working as a lab technician in training and taking science classes at Marian College, Fond du Lac. She returned to Nicaragua before completing her studies because a teacher was needed at Colegio Niño Jesús School in Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua. From 1953–2004, Sister taught elementary and secondary students, served as principal of various schools, and served in varied roles for her CSA sisters, including formation ministry, administration of local houses, and as regional treasurer, while volunteering in local parishes where she was living. Sister was certified as a ham radio operator, providing regular communications among the CSA Sisters and Capuchin Franciscan Friars serving in the country.

In 2005, Sister retired in the United States and became a legal permanent resident. As a resident of Nazareth Court & Center, she remained actively engaged in the life of the retirement community until health issues made her participation more difficult. She was grateful for the loving care that she received until the time of her death.



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Or call **920-907-2300**



To Form a More Perfect Union: Division and Unity in the US at 250

Join us for the next two speakers in the three-part series at the Prairie Theater and Event Center, in Fond du Lac, WI. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with formal remarks beginning at 6:00 p.m. and opportunities for questions from the audience. Afterward, attendees are invited to join a heavy hors d'oeuvres reception with the speaker in The Winnebago Room.

On **September 17**, Constitution Day, Sister Dianne Bergant, CSA, will talk about unity and diversity from a theological perspective.

On **October 22**, Alexa Merrill, Program Assistant at Project UNITE, will explore how to revive a culture of free expression and respect for viewpoint diversity.

A livestream will also be available on the CSA YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/@csasisters

Free; advance registration at
csasisters.org appreciated.



USat250